

## Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 06119

EXDIS - HANDLE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, EG, PGOV, XF  
SUBJ: SADAT AND THE PALESTINIANS

REF: STATE 47291

1. IT IS CERTAINLY TRUE THAT THE MURDER OF YUSUF EL-SIBAI AND THE SUBSEQUENT LARNACA AFFAIR HAVE ONCE AGAIN SURFACED NORMALLY LATENT ANTI-PALESTINIAN ATTITUDES ON PART OF EGYPTIAN PUBLIC. REPORTS THAT THE SPECIAL PLO TEAM DEPLOYED TO LARNACA MAY HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE FIRING ON THE EGYPTIAN COMMANDOS HAVE EXACERBATED THESE ANTI-PALESTINIAN FEELINGS. SO HAVE CRITICAL COMMENTS MADE BY PLO LEADERS, SUCH AS ABU IYAD AND OTHERS, OF THE EGYPTIAN ACTION. IN SAYING THIS, HOWEVER, WE SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT AMONG PAN-ARABS, THERE IS STILL CONSIDERABLE SYMPATHY FOR THE PALESTINIANS AS A GROUP, EVEN IF INDIVIDUAL PALESTINIANS WHO ARE HOSTILE TO EGYPT MAY ALSO BE EXCORIATED.

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2. PARADOXICALLY, THERE IS LITTLE INDICATION TO DATE THAT THESE ANTI-PALESTINIAN PUBLIC ATTITUDES APPRECIABLY ALTER THE POSITION OF SADAT AND GOE ON THE NEED FOR A SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE IN ANY PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. SADAT CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM IS THE CORE OF THE MIDDLE EAST ISSUE AND THAT THERE CAN BE NO PEACE UNTIL IT IS SATISFACTORILY

RESOLVED. THIS IS PARTLY DUE TO HIS CONVICTION THAT THE BASIC PROPOSITION OF THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM BEING THE CORE ISSUE IS CORRECT AND PARTLY BECAUSE HE RECOGNIZES THAT ALL OTHER ARAB STATES BELIEVE THIS AND THAT HE CANNOT THEREFORE AFFORD TO IGNORE IT IF GOE IS TO MAINTAIN ITS CLAIM FOR LEADERSHIP IN THE ARAB WORLD AND FOR ARAB LARGESSE.

3. AS RECENTLY AS YESTERDAY, SADAT CONTINUED TO STRESS THE NEED FOR A PALESTINIAN SETTLEMENT ALONG THE LINES OF THE ASWAN LANGUAGE. SO FAR AS I CAN TELL, HE HAS NOT CHANGED HIS MIND THAT AT THE END OF THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD, THE PALESTINIANS SHOULD BE GIVEN SOME RIGHT TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN FUTURE. HE HOPES THAT THIS CAN BE WORKED OUT IN SOME FASHION IN WHICH SOME KIND OF ASSOCIATION WITH JORDAN ENSUES. HE DISMISSES THE REJECTIONISTS AND IS FED UP WITH THE PLO LEADERSHIP, BUT CONTINUES TO SPEAK FAVORABLY OF FATAH. INSTEAD OF ABU IYAD (WHOM HE NOW CONCEDES TO BE AN EXTREMIST) AND ARAFAT (WHOM HE NOW LABELS AS WEAK), HE IS TALKING ABOUT KHALID AL-HASAN AS A MODERATE FATAH LEADER WITH WHOM THE ISRAELIS OUGHT TO BE WILLING AND ABLE TO WORK ALONG WITH INDIGENOUS WEST BANK AND GAZA PALESTINIAN LEADERS. WHILE HE HAS NOT FORMALLY ARTICULATED THIS IDEA, HE SEEMS TO ENVISAGE SOME COOPERATIVE ARRR LEADERSHIP IN THE ARAB WORLD AND FOR ARAB  
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LARGESSE.

3. AS RECENTLY AS YESTERDAY, SADAT CONTINUED TO STRESS THE NEED FOR A PALESTINIAN SETTLEMENT ALONG THE LINES OF THE ASWAN LANGUAGE. SO FAR AS I CAN TELL, HE HAS NOT CHANGED HIS MIND THAT AT THE END OF THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD, THE PALESTINIANS SHOULD BE GIVEN SOME RIGHT TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN FUTURE. HE HOPES THAT THIS CAN BE WORKED OUT IN SOME FASHION IN WHICH SOME KIND OF ASSOCIATION WITH JORDAN ENSUES. HE DISMISSES THE REJECTIONISTS AND IS FED UP WITH THE PLO LEADERSHIP, BUT CONTINUES TO SPEAK FAVORABLY OF FATAH. INSTEAD OF ABU IYAD (WHOM HE NOW CONCEDES TO BE AN EXTREMIST) AND ARAFAT (WHOM HE NOW LABELS AS WEAK), HE IS TALKING ABOUT KHALID AL-HASAN AS A MODERATE FATAH LEADER WITH WHOM THE ISRAELIS OUGHT TO BE WILLING AND ABLE TO WORK ALONG WITH INDIGENOUS WEST BANK AND GAZA PALESTINIAN LEADERS. WHILE HE HAS NOT FORMALLY ARTICULATED THIS IDEA, HE SEEMS TO ENVISAGE SOME COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN PLO MODERATES (THEREBY CONTINUING TO HONOR THE RABAT AGREEMENT) AND WEST BANK/GAZA PALESTINIAN LEADERS.

4. I DO NOT BELIEVE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS MAKE HIM ANY MORE RECEPTIVE TO THE IDEA OF GOING FOR AN EARLY EGYPTIAN/ISRAELI BILATERAL AGREEMENT THAN HE WAS BEFORE. HE CONTINUES TO TALK ABOUT WORKING OUT A SINAI SETTLEMENT, IMPLEMENTING THE FIRST WITHDRAWAL STAGE OF SUCH A SETTLEMENT, BUT POSTPONING IMPLEMENTATION OF SUBSEQUENT WITHDRAWAL STAGES UNTIL SOMETHING CONCRETE HAS BEEN WORKED OUT ON THE WEST BANK/GAZA ISSUE. ALL OF THIS IS STILL A LITTLE NEBULOUS IN HIS MIND AND IS THEREFORE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DEPENDING UPON DEVELOPMENTS. BUT THIS IS THE WAY IT NOW STANDS.

5. THE WAVE OF ANTI-PALESTINIAN SENTIMENT THAT  
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CURRENTLY PREVAILS IN EGYPT DOES, OF COURSE, GIVE SADAT MORE FREEDOM OF MANEUVER IN DEALING WITH THE ISRAELIS. EILTS

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## Message Attributes

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